**News**

*New Year reception faculty of Medicine*

Dean Prof.dr. Piet Stinissen started his new year speech by saying that it probably would take longer then we hoped for. Nevertheless, it was a very fascinating speech which showed us the positive and active vibes of the faculty of medicine of 2011 but more importantly the future plans of 2012. At the level of education prof. Stinissen explained amongst various topics the transition and associated changes from a 7 to 6 year program in medicine. He also announced that about 600 physiotherapy students from the PHL will join our university in 2013. In a second topic the importance of cooperation was highlighted at several levels: new docents are hired for e.g. the expansion of the patient safety group, the kick-off of the LCRP project, UBILIM, reorganization of the medical ethical commission,… . Last but least, networking… an activity indispensable in our jobs. Besides cooperation within our faculty, we work together with Jessa, we are member of Flanders’ Care and we are expanding the health sector via HOSPILIM. BIOMED keeps on growing as well through various networks such as the MS-network Limburg with its most glorious moment when Princess Mathilde visited us. In addition Adlon was founded in 2011 and the life sciences in Limburg are exponentially expanding proven by a full occupation of the ‘late wing’ in BioVille.

Now what about 2012? Thinking about new strategies in research, presenting the ‘MS-leerstoel’ and Jack van Horssen, mobile health, integration of the physiotherapeutic program in our university, Hotel de immigrantes (Koen Vanmechelen), a new name for the faculty “faculty of medicine & life sciences”,… So it is clear what we need to do… working together to reach all these goals and enjoying this new year.

*2nd BusinessLunch doctoral school: dr. Martin Sims*

On February 1st, our doctoral school organized the second BusinessLunch, with Martin Sims explaining his career choices. Dr. Sims is now working as a research director at the small biotech company Apitope, located in Bristol and Diepenbeek (Bioville), AKA a spinoff from BIOMED. Before this, he was an employee of GlaxoSmithKline for nearly 20 years. He entered industry right after his PhD, because he wanted to experience output from his research, namely helping patients with new therapeutics. Over the years, he got many opportunities to expand his career within this company, going to more senior management positions. About a year ago, he decided to leave GSK to become research director at Apitope, because he found that he lost touch with day-to-day science. For him, these benefits outweighed the cons (financial insecurity, working far away from home, …), and he is now very happy with his decision. To end with one of his quotes, he said: “No choice is irrevocable and there are many interlocking paths”. So think about the choices you make, but most of all, learn from them!
**Important deadlines**

1. **Symposia**
   * 8<sup>th</sup> international congress on Autoimmunity

   **February, 4<sup>th**** early registration (100 € discount)**
   **March, 12<sup>th** submission abstract**

   * Biomedica 2012
   **March, 7<sup>th** April, 18<sup>th** – 19<sup>th** submission poster via [http://www.biomedicasummit.com](http://www.biomedicasummit.com)**

2. **Events**
   * February, 9<sup>th** PhD symposium of the doctoral school: *Cytokines and cell trafficking in immunological disorders*

3. **Congratulations to...**
   * Tom Struys
   **Poster award**: Arterial spin labeling-based longitudinal monitoring of CBF and CVR following permanent unilateral ligation of the common carotid artery. Fourth Annual Meeting of the ISMRM Benelux Chapter

   * Natalie Vanden Bon

4. **Courses**

**Welcome**

Started in February

Kjell Lenaers

Technician forensic unit